

Driving

The roads in the Kiruna are usually kept clear of snow, however it can take a few hours for all the minor roads to be plowed after a blizzard. Remember that there is often an icy surface that is very slippery, even though the road may appear free from ice. Road salt is not used, but gradients, junctions and pavements are sanded.

Pedestrians always have the right of way in Sweden, and they will take it, so please drive defensively and courteously.

There is no right turn on red in Sweden.

Parking in Kiruna is free; however, you must use a parking card when parking in spaces marked with a blue and white 'P.' You should receive one of these parking cards in your rental car (check the storage area in the door and/or your glove compartment). When you park, set the clock on the card to the time you arrived. You must return to the car within two hours or you risk getting a ticket. For those who do receive a ticket, please note that any unpaid tickets will be charged to your credit card by the car rental agency, and you are likely to be charged an administrative fee in addition to the ticket. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to pay any tickets you might receive before leaving town.

Those staying at the Scandic Ferrum should note that using the parking card in the areas marked 'parking forbidden' does not exempt you from the possibility of getting a ticket. Also, please note that if you park in the large town center parking lot between 6 pm and 6 am, you do not have to use your parking card. However, if you park there between 6 am and 6 pm, then you must use the parking card and go out to change it every two hours.

The road to Esrange can be very dangerous, and people are discouraged from traveling there alone. In particular, you should note that the sticks used by the snow plows to mark the plowing boundaries are not necessarily on the road. If you drive too close to one of the sticks, you could find yourself on a soft shoulder or, worse yet, you could end up sliding off the road and into a snowbank.

When you set out on a road trip, no matter how short, be sure to bring adequate clothing in case you have any problems. A short ride could quickly turn into a dangerous situation if you are stranded without enough protection against the elements.

Driving while under the influence of either alcohol or drugs is an extremely serious offense in Sweden. The legal blood-alcohol limit is 0.02, which is the equivalent of one light beer. In addition to regular sobriety checks during the evening hours, it is not uncommon to be stopped at a checkpoint first thing in the morning. So, if you drink at any time of the day or night, please make sure that your body has had enough time to assimilate the alcohol before getting behind the wheel. If you are caught with more than the legal blood-alcohol limit, you will be put in jail, with one telephone call allowed. If you call someone from the Project Office to bail you out, please have your bags packed, as you will be put on the next plane home and permanently removed from the SOLVE II campaign. Don't drink and drive. Period.